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Her Majesty's Government hope that the United States Government will agree that, for the first three categories, action by the blockade forces can be confined to identification.

As regards the last category, it is now more improbable than ever that any British master would knowingly attempt to carry to Cuba any of the items in the proclamation on interdiction or indeed arms of any description. Her Majesty's Government realise however that the Russians may try to evade the blockade by using British ships for the carriage of, for instance, electronic equipment disguised as innocent cargo. British masters are being asked to exercise the utmost vigilance to guard against this, but Her Majesty's Government recognise that the blockade forces may on occasion consider it prudent to search a ship in this category. They trust however that the extent to which searches are instituted will be proportionate to the risk involved, which in their estimation is slight.

It is expected that British shipowners will instruct masters to comply with any directions from the blockade forces while reserving their legal rights where circumstances warrant this. Her Majesty's Government must also formally reserve the right to extend such diplomatic and legal protection to British shipping as may be permissible in accordance with international law.

Shipowners have agreed to supply the Ministry of Transport in London with as full and up-to-date information as possible about the movements of their ships in the area and the cargoes carried. This information will be transmitted to the United States authorities through the Shipping Attaché of Her Majesty's Embassy in Washington. Her Majesty's Government hope that this will facilitate identification and reduce the risk of delay and inconvenience to our ships.

October 25, 1962